



Theme Leader: Keith Raymond



HARVESTING THEME UPDATE

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Harvesting Research Strategy Workshop

FFR Harvesting Theme ran a successful workshop in July to capture ideas arising from the Industry Strategic Summit: *"Wood supply chain competitiveness – reviving forestry's financial performance"*, and to develop a research strategy for guiding the future Harvesting Theme Research Programme.

The workshop started with presentations on research programme development from the perspectives of Skogforsk in Sweden (Jan Fryk), FPInnovations in Canada (Jean-Francois Gingras); the CRC for Forestry in Australia (Mark Brown) and from South Africa (Michal Brink from Forestry Solutions).

The Research Strategy Workshop was open to all FFR members plus the participants at the Industry Summit, and attracted about 25 industry members. Participants addressed key research needs, current gaps and future trends during the course of the Workshop.

Subsequently, all participants undertook a ranking process to prioritise all the research needs identified, and develop this into a longer term research programme. If you are interested in receiving the report on the results of the Workshop please contact Keith Raymond or Veronica Bennett.

Harvesting Technical Steering Team

Arising from the Harvesting Strategy Workshop, a Technical Steering Team (TST) was formed for the Harvesting Theme. This comprises:

- Neil Weber (Pan Pac Forest Products)
- Matt Wakelin (Ernslaw One Ltd)
- Barry Wells (Blakely Pacific Limited)
- Spencer Hill (PF Olsen Limited)
- Dan Fraser (Hikurangi Forest Farms)

The first meeting of the TST was held in Rotorua in early September, when the current research programme was reviewed, and the results of the research priorities were presented and discussed.

The next stage in the process of the development of the Harvesting Research Strategy was a presentation of the draft Research Programme to the FFR Board at their meeting at the end of October, when support was given to further develop the Programme.

Current Research Work Programme Update

The FFR Harvesting Theme has been running for nine months now, and we recently held the Q1 2008/09 review of the research programme.

The initial focus of the FFR programme is:

1. Real Time Productivity Data Collection
2. Uptake of Human Factors Research
3. Logging Technology Watch
4. Future Felling on Steep Terrain
5. Forest Industry Benchmarking

Productivity Data Collection

An initial report entitled "Logging Productivity Monitoring", reviewing data collection tools for monitoring harvesting productivity, has been circulated to members. A MultiDAT electronic data logger has been leased from Forme Consulting Group for use in harvesting productivity research, and initial trials have commenced.

Other work has involved using an accelerometer to measure grapple openness on a skidder and relate this to payload. One study has been undertaken.



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Human Factors and Ergonomics Research

The purpose of this project is to determine the uptake of previous human factors and ergonomics research, and decide whether it has made a difference. The first stage of the project, a review of past human factors research initiatives from New Zealand, has been completed and circulated to members. A full report is available on request.

Work is now under way interviewing industry members to assess their perceptions of the success of the implementation of this previous research, and to determine the reasons for the success of some initiatives and why other initiatives have not been successful.

Logging Technology Watch

All of the LIRO brief reports have been scanned and loaded onto the FFR website <http://www.ffr.co.nz>. The reports have also been distributed on CD to members of the Harvesting Theme. Copies of all LIRO reports are available from the National Forestry Library at Scion. (Website: <http://www.scionresearch.com> or email pauline.siegfried@scionresearch.com).

The first issue of the biannual Technology Watch was published in September. This publication highlights research and technology developments that are happening outside the FFR Harvesting Theme.

The "Business Management For Logging" handbook is currently being reviewed in conjunction with FICA. The Handbook and software will be substantially updated and should be available by early next year.

Future Felling

The initial thrust of this project is to measure productivity of steep country felling operations over a range of New Zealand conditions.

Two initial short duration studies of manual and mechanised felling have been undertaken. The

draft reports are available to interested members by contacting Keith Raymond. More detailed productivity studies of mechanised steep country harvesting systems are planned.

Industry Benchmarking Study

This project is aimed at developing a harvesting productivity benchmarking system for the New Zealand forest industry.

The purpose of the benchmarking system is to provide a baseline against which various productivity factors can be measured and compared.

Participating FFR members will enter production-related data into the system via a web-based interface, and generate reports on many different productivity-related factors to identify areas where improvements should be made.

FFR has accepted a proposal from the University of Canterbury for the development of this system. Dr Rien Visser, Director of Studies in Forest Engineering at the School of Forestry will be leading this project, so give him your support on this important project for the New Zealand forest industry.

Keith Raymond

